

Please amend claims 1, 5, 8, 9 and 12 as follows:

B1 1.(Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding an  $\alpha$  chain of human Interleukin (IL)-11 receptor wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:4 or its complementary form under high stringency hybridization conditions.

B2 5.(Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid molecule is DNA.

B3 8.(Twice Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 5 wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:5.

9.(Twice Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 8 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

B4 12.(Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides which encodes a mammalian IL-11 receptor  $\alpha$ -chain, said nucleic acid molecule further defined by the ability of an oligonucleotide to hybridize thereto under medium stringency conditions and wherein said oligonucleotide is selected from SEQ ID NOS:6 to 10 wherein said medium stringency conditions comprise 0.25-0.5% w/v SDS at greater than or equal to 45°C for 2-3 hours.

Please add new claim 30 as follows:

B5 30.(New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides which encodes a mammalian IL-11 receptor  $\alpha$ -chain, said nucleic acid molecule further defined by the